AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 1 further comprising:~~ A method for processing objects within a data processing system in a network, the method comprising:

receiving a message at a computing device, wherein the message comprises a set of message headers and a message body, wherein the message body contains a top-level fragment comprising a first linking element to a first next-level fragment;

in response to determining that the first linking element comprises an expansion attribute, generating a set of linking elements in accordance with at least one parameter associated with the expansion attribute;

retrieving a cookie name parameter associated with the expansion attribute;

retrieving a cookie value associated with the cookie name; and

retrieving an expansion parameter name and an expansion parameter value from the cookie value.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8 further comprising:

parsing the cookie value as a string comprising a list of name-value pairs.

10-21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus of claim 15 further comprising:~~ An apparatus for processing objects within a data processing system in a network, the apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a message at a computing device, wherein the message comprises a set of message headers and a message body, wherein the message body contains a top-level fragment comprising a first linking element to a first next-level fragment;

means for generating, in response to determining that the first linking element comprises an expansion attribute, a set of linking elements in accordance with at least one parameter associated with the expansion attribute;

means for retrieving a cookie name parameter associated with the expansion attribute;

means for retrieving a cookie value associated with the cookie name; and

means for retrieving an expansion parameter name and an expansion parameter value from the cookie value.

23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 22 further comprising:

means for parsing the cookie value as a string comprising a list of name-value pairs.

24-35. (Canceled)

36. (Currently Amended) ~~The computer program product of claim 29 further comprising:~~ A computer program product in a computer readable medium for use within a data processing system in a network for processing objects, the computer program product comprising:

instructions for receiving a message at a computing device, wherein the message comprises a set of message headers and a message body, wherein the message body contains a top-level fragment comprising a first linking element to a first next-level fragment;

instructions for generating a set of linking elements in accordance with at least one parameter associated with the expansion attribute in response to determining that the first linking element comprises an expansion attribute;

instructions for retrieving a cookie name parameter associated with the expansion attribute;

instructions for retrieving a cookie value associated with the cookie name; and

instructions for retrieving an expansion parameter name and an expansion parameter value from the cookie value.

37. (Original) The computer program product of claim 36 further comprising:

instructions for parsing the cookie value as a string comprising a list of name-value pairs.

38-43. (Canceled)

44. (Currently Amended) ~~The data structure of claim 43~~ A data structure for use by a computing device in defining a content object, the data structure comprising:

a set of delimiters for a markup language element;

a keyword for indicating that the markup language element is a linking element to a fragment; a source identifier for the fragment, wherein the source identifier is used to obtain the fragment; and

an expansion attribute comprising at least one parameter for expanding the linking element into a set of linking elements, wherein the parameter is a cookie name identifying a cookie whose value is a list of name-value pairs that are used to form source identifiers for the set of linking elements.

45-48. (Canceled)